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Simple Faith

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus - **March 13, 2016**

Mark 10:17-31

Introduction: This lesson tells us of a discussion between Jesus and a man that is identified by scripture in **Matthew 19:16-29** as **young** and **rich**; and by **Luke 18:18-30**, as a **rich ruler**. If all **three** are not looked at simultaneously, we'll miss what was actually said by Jesus.

Mark 10:17, *And when he was gone forth into the **way**, there came one **running**, and **kneeled** to him, and asked him, Good **Master (teacher)**, what shall I **do** that I may inherit eternal life?*

Thought 1. The first thing we see of note about this ruler is his child-like humility and reverence for Jesus to run, and then kneel before him! Not many rulers possessed these qualities! He came as Jesus walked along the road! Not secretly as did Nicodemus.

John 3:1-2 ...a man of the Pharisees, named **Nicodemus**, a **ruler** of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by **night**, and said ...Rabbi, we know that thou art a **teacher** come **from** God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be **WITH** him.

Mark 10:18 ...Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou **ME** good? there is **NONE GOOD** but **ONE**, that is, **God (the supreme [Highest] Divinity)**.

Thought 1. First, we have to agree Jesus said, "there is none good, but one, that is, God!"

None defined 3762, **not any**.

Good defined 18, "**good**" (**in any sense, often as noun**): **good** (adj., possessing desirable qualities; promoting success, welfare, or happiness; useful; fit; excellent; admirable).

James 1:17, Every **good** gift and every **perfect** gift is from above, and cometh down from the **Father** of lights...

Thought 2. The word "gift", in every good "gift", is defined "any thing given." So, in Mark 10:18, Jesus was really saying that God the Father is the **SOURCE** of ALL that is **GOOD!** If anything is good, it's good because God made it so! Therefore, the good IN Jesus was from God; making clear the fact that he was NOT God: the Highest authority! And that everything that Jesus TAUGHT was actually taught to him by his Father: God!

Furthermore, he is the **GOOD** to which Jesus was measuring up! He was consumed with, at all times, being just like his Father! And this is also why he worked at pleasing ONLY his Father: his God!! And this is still true today!

John 8:28 ...I do **nothing** of **MYSELF**; but as my Father hath **taught** me, I **speak** these things.

John 20:17, Jesus saith... Touch me not; for I am **not** yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **MY Father**, and **your Father**; and **to MY God**, and **your God**.

Revelation 3:12, (Jesus says) Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of **MY God**, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of **my God**, and the name of the city of **my God**, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from **my God**...

Thought 3. These verses all prove they are TWO separate persons!

Mark 10:19, Thou **KNOWEST** the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, **Defraud** not, **Honour** thy father and mother.

Matthew 19:17 ...but if thou **wilt** (*desire*) enter into **life**, keep the commandments.

Thought 1. In Matthew 19:17, Jesus answers his question about inheriting eternal Life. He says, keep the commandments. That's it's! In verse 18, he saith unto him, Which? Jesus saith thou shalt do no murder... And He also adds one not listed in the other 2 accounts: Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbor AS thyself. This was God's commandments in the Old Covenant.

However, when Jesus died and ROSE again, God set up a New Covenant, with new commandments. This is a truth that SOME Christians struggle with, even today. So, let's look at a few verses that confirm this truth.

Hebrews 8:7-8, 13, For if that **FIRST covenant** had been **faultless**, then should no place have been sought for the **SECOND**. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **NEW covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... In that he saith, A **new covenant**, **HE** hath made the FIRST old (declare obsolete [GONE into DISUSE]).

Hebrews 10:9, He **taketh AWAY** the **FIRST**, that he may establish the **SECOND**...

Colossians 2:13-14, And you, being **dead** in your **sins** and the uncircumcision of your **FLESH (human nature)**, hath he **quicken**ed (make ALIVE) together with him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses; **Blotting out (wiping away)** the handwriting of **ordinances (LAW)** was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to **his cross**...

Thought 2. In order to avoid confusion about God's commandments given under the New Covenant, John clearly states the TWO of them in one of his letters.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever **we ASK**, **we receive** of him, because we **KEEP** his **COMMANDMENTS**, and **DO** those things that are pleasing in his sight. And **THIS** is **his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that **believe** on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that ye **HAVE** **eternal life**, and that ye may **BELIEVE** on the name of the Son of God.

Thought 3. The meaning of the word "BELIEVE" in these verses carries the understanding of a need to CONTINUE to believe, until either we leave our body in death, or Jesus comes to take us up in what's known as the "rapture."

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE BELIEVE**, and in time of **temptation (experience of evil) fall away (desert, DEPART, withdraw self)**.

Hebrews 10:35, **Cast not AWAY** therefore your **confidence (assurance [FAITH, belief])**, which hath great recompence of **reward**.

Romans 11:18-22, Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the **root** thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were **broken off**, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of **unbelief** they were broken off, and thou standest by **FAITH**. Be **not** highminded, but **fear**: For if God spared not the **natural** branches, take heed lest he also spare **not** thee. Behold therefore the **goodness** and **SEVERITY** (harshness, strictness) of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **IF** thou **CONTINUE** in his goodness: **otherwise** thou also shalt be **CUT OFF**.

Mark 10:20-21, *And he answered and said unto him, Master, **ALL** these have I **observed** from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him **LOVED** him, and said unto him, **One** thing thou lackest: go thy way, **SELL whatsoever** thou hast, and **give** to the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure (a deposit, wealth)** in **heaven**: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

Thought 1. Matthew did not mention his words about "lacking one thing". But in no account of this meeting did Jesus dispute his words and correct him by saying that he'd lied and had NOT kept the commandments. But, Matthew gives us some much needed information about Jesus' reply that deviated from the ruler's desire to inherit eternal life. Jesus went from speaking of eternal life to speaking of moral **PERFECTION**.

Matthew 19:21, Jesus said unto him, if thou **wilt** (*desire*) be **PERFECT (complete (in various applications of labor, GROWTH, mental and MORAL character, etc.); completeness:-- of full [MATURE] age,)...**

NOTE: ...if thou wilt be perfect... Wanting nothing, completely righteous (*in character*), according to the tenor of the covenant of **works**, having no evil, concupiscence, or worldly lusts... our Lord signifies it was not enough to be possessed of negative holiness, and do **no** hurt to his neighbour, to his person, property, and estate, but he must **love** him, and **DO** him **good**; and therefore, though so far as **he HAD complied** with the law, it was **right** and **commendable**; wherefore it is said by Mark, "that Jesus beholding him loved him"; had an affectionate regard to him as man, and approved of his intentions, seriousness, and actions, so far as agreeable; yet tells him, **one thing thou lackest: go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven**: not that either the LAW of God, or Gospel of Christ, REQUIRE this to be done of **all men**, and at **all times**; for though it is a duty binding upon **all**, and **always**, to relieve the **poor** and the **needy**, yet a man is **NOT** obliged to **GIVE ALL** that he has to them; see (2 Cor. 8:11) **nor** does either LEGAL or Christian perfection lie in doing this: a man may give **ALL** his goods to the poor and yet be destitute of the grace of God, (1 Cor. 13:3) much less can such an action **merit** the heavenly **TREASURE** of **eternal life**.

Nevertheless of **SOME persons**, and in **SOME cases**, it **has been required**, that they part with ALL their worldly substance, for the sake of Christ and his Gospel; as the **apostles** were called to leave ALL and follow Christ, as this man was also... (Source: <http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=19>)

Luke 18:22 ...Yet **lackest** thou one thing: sell **ALL** that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure** in heaven: and **come, follow me**.

Thought 2. According to the parable of the sewer, the rich young ruler's MIND is thorny. The principles of this parable still apply today to the MINDS of **SOME** Christians.

Luke 8:14, And that which fell among **THORNS** are they, which, when they have

heard, go forth, and are **CHOKED** with cares and **RICHES** and pleasures of this life, and bring **NO fruit** to **PERFECTION**.

Ephesians 4:11-13 ...he gave some, apostles ...prophets ...evangelists ...pastors and teachers; For the **perfecting (complete furnishing)** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the MIND)** of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **PERFECT** man (*same as Matt. 19:21*), unto the measure of the **stature (maturity)** of the **fullness (completion** [finishing point]) of **Christ**...

Thought 3. It's dangerous to not want to grow up. The person who has not grown up is easily tricked and trapped by Satan. That's why mature Christians are needed to watch over, feed, and thereby help protect them as Jesus' sheep. Acts 20:25-35

Ephesians 4:14-16 ...that we *henceforth* be no more **children (an infant (minor); an immature Christian:--BABE)**, **tossed to and fro**, and carried about with every WIND of DOCTRINE, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to **DECEIVE**; but **speaking the truth in love**, may **GROW UP** into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying** (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the mind) of itself in **LOVE**.

Mark 10:22...he was **sad** at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Thought 1. Today, if this same requirement was put to some in the five fold ministry about desiring perfection: being a spiritual adult, they too would go away SAD. In their mind, they are thinking: "just being saved: being God's child with eternal life, is good enough!" I don't want to be perfect at that cost! And a lot of them don't even believe we should try! But, even though they're NOT perfect, they're IN God's house (family) WITH eternal life.

2 Timothy 2:19-20 ...Let every one that **nameth** the **name of Christ** depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but **also** of **wood** and of **earth**; and **SOME** to **honour**, and **SOME** to **DISHONOUR**.

Mark 10:23-24, And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto **his disciples**, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how **hard** is it for **them** that **TRUST** in **riches** to **enter** into the kingdom of God!

1 Timothy 6:3-10, If any man teach otherwise ...He is proud ...supposing that **gain is godliness**, from such withdraw thyself. But they that **will (intend on)** be RICH fall into temptation ...a **snare** ...into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the **LOVE** of money is the root of **ALL (all manner of)** evil...

Mark 10:25, It is **easier** for a **camel** to go through the **eye** of a **needle**, than for a **rich man** to enter into the kingdom of God.

Thought 1. Some say the word camel should have been translated rope, not camel. And still others; say the word needle is referring to a special door for camels. However, for camel, the definition is **(a camel)**! The word **needle** is defined to mean **(to sew, through the idea of puncturing, a needle)**. So, he meant what he said about a literal camel and needle!

Mark 10:26-27, And they were **astonished** out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be **SAVED**? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With **men** it is **impossible**, but **not** with God: for **with God** **ALL things** are **possible**.

NOTE: ...for with God all things are possible; even to reduce a camel to so small a size, as to go through the eye of a needle; and to work upon a **rich man's heart**, so as to **take him off of his trust and confidence** in his worldly riches, and bring him to a compliance with his will, and into his kingdom; and also to protect, and save his poor and mean followers, notwithstanding all the difficulties, dangers, and oppositions they meet with....
(Source: <http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=40&ch=10>)

Thought 1. Jesus lets them know a rich man CAN be saved. And Paul spoke of some.

1 Timothy 6:17, Charge them (*Christians*) that are **RICH** in this world, that they be **not** highminded, nor **TRUST** in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly **all** things to ENJOY; That they DO good, that they be **rich** in **good works**, **ready** to distribute, **willing to communicate (liberal [not selfish])**...

Mark 10:28-29, Then **Peter** began to say unto him, *Lo, we have **left ALL**, and have **followed** thee.* And Jesus answered and said, *Verily I say unto you...*

Matthew 19:28 ...That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon **twelve thrones, judging** the **twelve tribes** of Israel.

NOTE: ...in the regeneration. This clause is so placed, that it may be read in connection with the preceding words, and be understood of the disciples following Christ in the regeneration; meaning, not the grace of regeneration, in which they could not be said, with propriety, to follow Christ; and one of them was never a partaker of it: but the **new state** of things, in **the church of God**, which was foretold, and is called the time of reformation, or setting all things right, which began upon the sealing up the law, and the prophets, and the ministry of John the Baptist, and of Christ; who both, when they began to preach, declared, that this time, which they call the kingdom of heaven, was at hand, just ushering in. Now the twelve apostles followed Christ herein: they believed, and professed him to be **the Messiah**; they received, what the Jews called, his NEW DOCTRINE, and preached it to others; they submitted to the **new ordinance of baptism**, and **followed Christ**, and attended him wherever he went, working miracles, preaching the Gospel, and reforming the minds and manners of men. Now this new dispensation is called the regeneration, and which more manifestly took place **after our Lord's resurrection**, and **ascension**, and the **pouring** down of the Spirit; wherefore the phrase may be connected with the following words, **when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory in the regeneration**; not in the resurrection of the dead, or at the last judgment, but in this new state of things, which now began to appear with another face: for the apostles having a new **commission** to preach the Gospel to all the world; and being endued with power from on high for such service, in a short time went every where preaching the word, with great success. **Gentiles were converted**, as well as **Jews**, and both brought into a Gospel church state; the ceremonies of the old law being abolished, were disused; and the **ordinances** of **baptism**, and the **Lord's supper**, every where practised; old things passed away, and all things became new...

(Source: <http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=mt&ch=19#1>)

James 1:1, James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the **twelve TRIBES** which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Mark 10:29-31, ...*There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an **hundredfold** NOW in **THIS TIME**, houses ...brethren ... sisters, ...mothers ...children, and lands, with **persecutions**; and in the **world TO COME** **eternal life**.* But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.